

U.S.S.N. 10/840,049

REMARKS

Thorough examination and careful review of the application by the Examiner is noted and appreciated.

The gracious allowance of Claims 12-20 by the Examiner is further noted and appreciated.

The indication that Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is further acknowledged and appreciated.

Claim 1 has been amended to further recite the limitations contained in Claim 4, which is cancelled as a result. The newly amended independent Claim 1 is therefore equivalent to Claim 4 being rewritten into independent form to include all the limitations contained in the base Claim 1 which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of the newly amended independent Claim 1 is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-3 and 5-11 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable based on the background of invention (BOI) in view of Mui et al '825 publication. It is contented that the combination of BOI and Mui et al substantially teaches the

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invention contained in independent Claim 1 and its dependent claims.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to further recite the limitations contained in Claim 4, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of the newly amended independent Claim 1 is therefore respectfully requested of the Examiner.

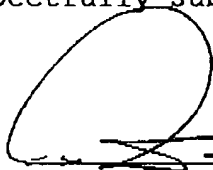
Claim 2-3 and 5-11, depend, directly or indirectly, on the newly amended independent Claim 1 and are therefore likewise allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of these claims is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that all the pending Claims, i.e. Claims 1-3 and 5-11 are now in condition for allowance. Such favorable action by the Examiner at an early date together with the passage to issuance of the allowed Claims 12-20 is respectfully solicited.

In the event that the present invention as claimed is not in condition for allowance for any reason, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative at his Bloomfield Hills, Michigan office at (248) 540-4040 such that necessary action may be taken to place the application in a condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

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